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PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Peter G. Hartwell

Group Art Unit: 2812

Serial No.: 10/035,792

Examiner: Ron Everett Pompey

Filed: 10/18/01

Docket No. 10006166-1

For: **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR
ELECTRICALLY ISOLATING PORTION OF WAFERS**

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

The Examiner has made some broad conclusory statements in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which may be viewed as an oversimplification of the examination issues, and if taken out of context, could give rise to an improper interpretation of the claims as well as the file history. For these reasons, Applicant provides the following comments to vouch the record and to ensure proper interpretation of the claims and history.


First, while Applicant agrees with the Examiner that the stated reasons for allowance of the claims may be proper grounds for allowance, there may be other additional reasons why these claims are allowable over the prior art of record, and Applicant does not admit that the stated reasons for allowance are the only reasons for allowance.

Second, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. Section 282: Each claim of a patent (whether in independent or dependent form) shall be presumed valid independently of the validity of other claims; dependent or multiple dependent claims shall be presumed valid even though dependent upon an invalid claim. Thus, the dependent claims that were not addressed by the Examiner in

the reasons for allowance should not rise or fall, when construed in terms of validity, with their respective independent claims, but instead should be construed independently of their respective independent claims.

Third, the scope and validity of each claim (whether in independent or dependent form) should be determined based upon the entire combination of elements/features/steps in each claim, as opposed to only the particular feature or features pointed out by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,


M. Paul Qualey, Reg. No. 43,024
Attorney for Applicant

Date: 19 MAR 04